Secretariat Reform.

64. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the recent Huzur Secretariat reform was sanctioned; and

(*b*) why it was not indicated in the Budget for 1106?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 60?

(*b*) The question was only under the consideration of Government during the Budget Session of 1105 and was not finally settled by them at that time.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know the interval between the final settlement of the question by the Government and the discussion of the Budget in this House?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The final decision by Government was made when the Budget was being discussed in this House, that is, during the Budget meeting of the Council.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, if the Government wanted, the matter *could* have been placed before this Council in the Budget Session itself?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; under no Rule or Standing Order, could the Government place it before the Council *during* the last Budget Session.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That, I know. I want to know whether, if the Government had wanted it, they could not have included it in the Budget?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; they could not have done it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) What is the reason?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already stated that. The final decision was arrived at only *after* the meeting of the Finance Committee.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know the interval, the number of days, between the decision by the Government and the consideration of the Budget by this House?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said that decision was arrived at during the consideration of the Budget by this House.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it *after* or *before*?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have repeatedly said '*during*' the consideration of the Budget, by this House, which I believe, takes place for about seven or eight days at a stretch.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the reason why it was not possible for the Government to come to a decision *before* the Budget was prepared?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was not possible; that is all I can say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know *why* it was not possible. The matter was pending consideration for over a year; and it was an important matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I gave my answer to that question to Mr. Damodaran Asan, namely, that the necessity and the urgency of the matter were decided only after the meeting of the Finance Committee.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, the necessity for making the changes in the Secretariat, and the urgency of the matter were felt by the authorities only *after* the Budget was prepared.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, that was the nature of the urgency.

It is stated in the answer that it was not a regular reform of the Secretariat. I wish to know what would constitute a reform of the Secretariat?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If you deal with the whole staff, the whole machinery and the system of work, then that would be reform. We have not done that.

Action against newspapers under the Newspapers Regulation.

65. **MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI** (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of newspapers whose licenses have been cancelled ever since the enactment of the Newspapers Regulation;

(*b*) the names of such newspapers;

(*c*) the names of such newspapers whose security money has been added to the Government coffers under the Regulation, and the total money thus got by the Government;

(*d*) the number and names of the newspapers which have been called upon to submit explanations for not taking action against them under the Newspapers Regulation; and

(*e*) the number and names of the newspapers who have on this order apologised to the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Two.

(*b*) The 'Prabodhakan' and the 'Sentinel'.

(*c*) The cancellation of the license of a newspaper entails the forfeiture of the license fee under Section 5 of Regulation, V of 1101. The license fee of each of the two papers was Rs. 25.

(*d*) No newspapers were asked to submit explanations. Four newspapers, *viz.*, (1) The 'Navasakti', (2) The 'Powra Prabha', (3) The 'Prathidinam', and (4) The 'Bhaje Bharatham' were called

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